

Questions and Answers Regarding
Solicitation number SBD214-06-Q-0005 for Gardening Services at U.S. Consul
General Office and Consul General's Residence

Posted August 24, 2006

- 1. Question:** Are there any restrictions regarding which fertilizers/chemicals can be used on the grounds, such as "Round Up"?

Answer: Not unless specifically prescribed in the RFQ

- 2. Question:** Would the U.S. Consulate have any objections to "weeding and feeding" the grass?

Answer: No

- 3. Question:** Is the contractor responsible for trimming the hedges along Middle Road leading up to the Consulate from Cork Screw Hill?

Answer: No.

- 4. Question:** Would replacing perennials/annuals beds be considered a permanent service or a temporary service?

Answer: A permanent Service. Temporary services is usually considered some work on a temporary basis.

- 5. Question:** Is this a fixed contract for each additional option year as well as the initial year?

Answer: Yes.

- 6. Question:** The contractor is expected to project out costs for the additional option years. However, should there be a tremendous spike in inflation or costs of goods to the extent that the contractor would lose money if held to the projected costs for that option year, can the contract be modified to address this?

Answer: There are no provisions for hyperinflation and the contract cannot be modified.

- 7. Question:** Are there interior plants in the Consulate and Consulate General's Residence that the contractor must maintain?

Answer: At this time there are no plants inside the Consulate, but there are plants inside the Consulate General's Residence.

8. Question: How prescriptive is the maintenance plan? The RFQ makes it appear very extensive. Should it be as detailed as to how low we will trim the hedges to what exact date we will deliver mulch?

Answer: The aim of the maintenance plan is to give the U.S. government an Idea of what the contractor is envisioning to accomplish during a set time period. We are not looking to be overly prescriptive however the plan needs to identify to work elements from the contract.

9. Question: The RFQ states that replacing plants that die due to neglect will be done at no cost to the U.S. government. If the contractor is taking over from the current existing state where there are neglected plants, is the contractor expected to cover those costs?

Answer: Yes. The price of replacing existing, dead or dying plants should be included in the bidder's initial proposal. Any plants that die in the future due to the contractor's neglect will be replaced at no additional cost to the U.S. government.

10. Question: Is there a compost at the Consul General's Residence?

Answer: No, but there is ample property to establish one and the location will be designed by the contracting officer.

11. Question: Can you explain the funding situation in regards to fiscal year funding obligations?

Answer: The U.S. government's fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. As such, each fiscal year funding must be approved by Congress. Often, the fiscal year budget is not approved by October 1, thus causing the government to run under continuing resolutions. Thus options years are contingent to the availability of funds.

12. Question: What is a DUNs number, ITN number and an EFT?

Answer: The DUNs number is a number assigned by Dun and Bradstreet to registered companies. The U.S Government checks D&B reports to verify credit ratings and other company information. ETF is electronic funds transfer for contract payments and the Consulate does not provide EFT at this time. The ITN number does not apply to companies in Bermuda.

13. Question: Upon review of the Consulate General's residence, it seems a landscaping

company already does the grass cutting. Does this mean the contractor is not responsible for grass cutting? And if not, what is the contractor responsible for?

Answer: The contractor would be responsible for all other duties outlined in the RFQ such as trimming the hedges, replanting perennials and annuals as necessary, mulching, removing debris, composting, tending to interior plants and seeding patches of grass, etc.

14. Question: It appears that the work at the Consul General's residence could be described as a personal gardener for the residence. Is this true, and if so, could the Gardener keep a small amount of tools housed at the residence for weekly use?

Answer: No, the company is responsible for all identified in the contract. Yes, the contractor will be allowed to store a small amount of tools at the residence but this would first need to be designated and approved by the Contracting Officer